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17 MR. LAWSON: Now the final person I have on my

18 list is David Oaks, and I'd ask him to speak now.

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19 Is there anyone else who would like to speak

20 following

Mr. Oaks? Okay. We have one person.

21 Anyone else? You don't get the last word, Mr.

22 Oaks. Sorry.

23 MR. OAKS: Having taught at university so many

24 years, I'm used to getting the last word, but in this case,

25 I'll give you an all right. Discretion is perhaps the better

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1 part of valor.

2 I'm afraid that my comments will be disjointed.

3 When I signed in here today, there was a column of representing  
4 whomever. I don't represent anyone but myself.

5 Just a twenty some odd year property owner and  
6 resident of this town, which I chose out of the entire United  
7 States to call my own, and so I am maybe a little bit attached  
8 to it more than maybe some others are. I'm here quite on  
9 purpose. I chose it.

10 I grew up in Japan and this recent incident in  
11 Tokimura is upsetting to put it mildly to me because I remember  
12 the end of the war in which bombs, atomic in nature, were  
13 dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

14 So the Japanese people are especially sensitive  
15 about anything to deal with atomics, and [the gentleman made the  
16 comment about Japan sending its spent nuclear waste to this  
17 country, possibly to this repository near us in Yucca Mountain.

18 Yes, that was signed into law, and yes, the  
19 Japanese government does intend on sending its nuclear waste to  
20 us. So have any number of other countries who have agreed to  
21 the terms of the treaty.]

22 When I first made my question sitting over there,  
23 I mentioned Murphy's Law, which we all know seems to work very  
24 much in our own lives. If something can possibly go wrong, it  
25 will.

1 Tokimura, may be an example of this. Perhaps  
2 another one was the recent incident with the Mars probe or  
3 whatever it was in which -- I can't believe the stupidity of  
4 people, but I'm reminded of it almost everyday.

5 English measurements, as illogical as they may  
6 be, 5,280 feet to a mile. Excuse me. But the metric system,  
7 which is very logical. We have ten digits on our hands, and  
8 therefore we divide things into ten.

9 In this country, you buy a dozen eggs. In Japan,  
10 you buy them by the ten. Which is more logical? Whatever.

11 But something went wrong. The two agencies or  
12 the one agency, I suppose it was, mixed up the two systems  
13 between the metric system and the English system.

14 How utterly ludicrous, but it happened with  
15 people who supposedly have IQs better than mine, but when I  
16 look at figures on a sheet of paper, I can tell which  
17 measurements they are simply because of the size of them.

2 18 [If something can go wrong, it will. It's bound  
19 to, and shipping these things through our town by truck, unless  
20 a bypass is made, is going to court disaster.

21 We've all seen the trucks, the cars that have  
22 tried to make this turn here and they don't do it. Sometimes  
23 they do, sometimes they don't, but because of my personal  
24 experiences as a child in Japan and having seen what nuclear  
25 disasters can do, even some years after those bombs were

1 dropped, the disfigurement that happens to people -- not only  
2 the lost lives, but the ruined lives -- have led me to believe  
3 that any courting of nuclear problems, we're courting a  
4 potential disaster, and it could happen here. Murphy's Law.  
5 Maybe it won't.

6 Maybe we'll be lucky for twenty of the twenty-  
7 five years that this project is supposed to last. Maybe  
8 something will happen at any time.

3

9 [There are other ways to dispose of this nuclear  
10 waste. France, for example, disposes of them by reusing the  
11 nuclear material.] Now most Americans don't happen to like the  
12 French, calling them frogs, whatever.

13 The French are a very cultural people and they're  
14 just as rude to each other as they are to us, let me assure  
15 you, having been in that country any number of times. They're  
16 just as rude to each other.

4

17 [There are other options. Now we're not supposed  
18 to look at the other options, which I find very foolish in  
19 these rules.

20 If there are other options, why aren't they being  
21 talked about? Why does this country hold out to being superior  
22 to every other country in burying the stuff for 10,000 years?  
23 We don't even have a recorded history of 10,000 years.

24 Who are we to say that there are ways or there  
25 aren't other ways of disposing of this? And by the way, since

1 most of the scientific discoveries, shall we call them,  
2 realizations might be a better word having been made in the  
3 last hundred years, who's to say that we can't find another way  
4 of disposing of this within ten years?

5           If you'd have asked somebody a hundred years ago  
6 can man ever fly? Radio, television, medical advances, et  
7 cetera, et cetera, we said they couldn't be done. Well, who's  
8 to say that we can't get rid of this -- pardon my French --  
9 crap, this nuclear crap in some other way.

10           Other options should be looked at, and here's  
11 that no one has even seemed to think about, a whole different  
12 topic, but the gentleman, Mr. Walker, mentioned about Nye  
13 County's concern, but how long will Nye County be with us?

14           There's serious thought of splitting the county.  
15 Does this mean that the State of Nevada and the Federal  
16 Government and the myriad of agencies involved will have to  
17 deal with a whole new group of people?

18           Because the people in Pahrump want to be rid of  
19 the people in Tonopah, and just where that new county line must  
20 go eventually, who knows, but nobody asked that question.

21           And one of our local residents, a very good  
22 friend of mine who writes educational material for a living  
23 right here, although he doesn't get out much because he doesn't  
24 like to talk to the average person, he also meant to -- meant  
25 me to say that when we look at this whole problem, why are we

46

1 looking at only today?

2 Not only are there other ways to get rid of this  
3 stuff, but [maybe we don't have to do anything more than simply  
4 say we refuse to take it.]

4 cont'd.

5 [If the stuff is good enough where it was mined  
6 and it's been spent and used, why not return it to the areas  
7 from which it came?]

8 And lastly, I made a comment at the last meeting  
9 we had, which I noticed brought chuckles to people's faces and  
10 I consider a viable option.

6

11 [If the Federal Government and the Easterners seem  
12 to think that it's all so safe and all so wise, why don't they  
13 bury it under Manhattan Island, New York and perhaps get rid of  
14 our national crime rate.]

15 Thank you, gentlemen and ladies.

16 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Oaks.

17 MR. SKIPPER: Thank you for your comment.

18 MR. LAWSON: Miss Swartz, would you like to  
19 speak again?

20 MS. SWARTZ: This is very brief.